

COVID-19

SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING



Friday, August 14, 2020

VIDEO: STAY SAFE DURING HEAT, AND PANDEMIC

The Joint Information Center published a brief social media video offering tips for staying cool, safe and kind during the COVID-19 crisis.

Video: Stay safe during heat, and pandemic

It's going to be warm this weekend. The Joint Information Center published a brief social media video offering tips for staying cool, safe and kind during the COVID-19 crisis.

In general, when at home or work:

- Stay hydrated
- Avoid strenuous activity
- Use cold washcloths on your neck or wrists
- Use fans to circulate the air
- Close curtains or blinds to keep heat out
- Close the doors of unused rooms

Avoid outdoor activities during the peak heat of the day (usually 3-6pm)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

IT'S HOT OUT THERE

Tips on how to survive the heat during COVID-19.



RED FLAG WARNING ISSUED FOR EAST SNOHOMISH COUNTY

The National Weather Service Friday issued a Red Flag warning for fire risk covering most of the mountainous areas of Western Washington, including high country in east Snohomish County. A burn ban is in place countywide.

Red Flag warning issued for east Snohomish County

The weekend's forecast hot temperatures and dry conditions prompted the National Weather Service Friday to issue a Red Flag warning for fire risk covering most of the mountainous areas of Western Washington, including high country in east Snohomish County. The alert is scheduled to remain in effect through Sunday night. Meanwhile, a burn ban is in place countywide. Learn more about wildfire risks here through Snohomish County DEM's [interactive hazard map](#).



Rapid Warm-Up This Weekend

National Weather Service - Seattle

Issued: 11:28 AM PT Friday, August 14th, 2020

Next Update: Tomorrow by 12 PM

Point of Contact: NWS Operations (24/7) - 206-526-6095

Moderate Impacts Possible

This includes common events that could have moderate impacts on commerce. Precautions advised to protect lives and property.

CHANGES SINCE PREVIOUS BRIEFING

No change

WEATHER IMPACTS

Western Washington

HIGH Confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Daytime highs Sunday will likely reach levels that pose a moderate to high risk of heat-related illness/impacts, especially to sensitive groups, including those without effective cooling or hydration.Increased risk to children and pets left unattended in hot vehicles or outdoors.
MODERATE Confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dry and unstable conditions across the Cascades and lowland areas south of Olympia will result in critical fire weather conditions and rapid fire growth.

FORECAST DETAILS

Western Washington

FRIDAY-SATURDAY

- Highs Friday 70s and lower 80s. Highs Saturday 80s to lower 90s.
- Dry conditions

SUNDAY

- Warm up continuing with temperatures likely to reach the low to mid-90s for most inland areas away from the water.
- The hottest locations will be in the Cascade valleys and foothills as well as lowland areas south of Olympia where temperatures could reach the upper 90s.
- Critical fire conditions will develop across the Cascade Mountains and Valleys as well as lowland areas south of Olympia.

SUNDAY NIGHT-NEXT WEEK

- Gradual cool down into the middle of the week.
- There will be the possibility of some shower or even thunderstorm activity Sunday night over the Cascades.

See weather.gov/seattle for the latest forecast details for your location.

DRIVE-THRU CORONAVIRUS TESTING SCHEDULED NEXT WEEK IN EVERETT

Next week's Snohomish Health District drive-thru testing schedule has been announced. Testing will be in the large parking lot near Everett Memorial Stadium with entrance off of Broadway only.

Drive-thru coronavirus testing scheduled next week in Everett

The Snohomish Health District is continuing testing at 3900 Broadway in Everett. Testing will be in the large parking lot near Everett Memorial Stadium.

The entrance for testing is off of Broadway, following signage and cones. There have been some issues with people trying to access other entrances, or approaching staff in the Community Resource Center for questions. Testing cannot be accessed off of 41st Street.



Eligibility criteria remains the same as previous weeks. Registration is now open at www.snohd.org/drive-thru-testing. The Health District is working to establish a phone number

for those without internet access or needing an interpreter. Look for more details when that is up and running.



Drive-Thru Testing: August 17-21

Our drive-thru testing is available M-F at 3900 Broadway in the large parking lot near Everett Memorial Stadium.

Register for an appointment & find more info at
www.snohd.org/drive-thru-testing

For the week of August 17, testing is available at 3900 Broadway:

- Monday, August 17, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 18, from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 19, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Thursday, August 20, from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Friday, August 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Testing is for COVID-19 and is by appointment.

Results should be available in 3-4 business days.



MODIFICATION TO STATE REPORTING OF COVID TESTS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE BIG IMPACTS

Changes to how the state Department of Health reports negative COVID-19 testing data will soon reflect the total number of tests completed, rather than the total number of unique individuals ever tested negative. This will not impact how positive test results are reported and should not have a big impact on the data provided by the Snohomish Health District.

Modifications to state reporting of COVID tests not likely to have big impact



**SNOHOMISH
HEALTH DISTRICT**
WWW.SNOHD.ORG

On Wednesday, the state Department of Health announced [changes in how they report negative tests](#). COVID-19 testing data will soon reflect the total number of tests completed,

rather than the total number of unique individuals ever tested negative.

This will not impact how positive test results are reported or calculated. While there may be some minor fluctuations in Snohomish County's positivity rate while DOH makes the adjustments, the Health District will still be able to track and follow-up on positive cases.

Finally, while the positivity rate is one metric being tracked, it is not the only one. As shown in the Snohomish Health District's [weekly snapshot](#), there are a number of metrics being monitored. This snapshot is what many of schools and businesses monitor most closely. In the current moment, Snohomish County's high case rate is the dominant factor in deliberations and guidance regarding public health interventions. Statewide and regional findings inform the Health District's situational awareness, but disease control decision making here in Snohomish County are based [on local data](#).

NEW REPORT EXPLORES OPTIONS FOR MINIMIZING COVID-19 RISKS, MAXIMIZING EDUCATION

A new report released by the State Department of Health and Public Health – Seattle & King County measures the tradeoffs between minimizing COVID-19 risks and maximizing educational benefits.

New report explores options for minimizing COVID-19 risks, maximizing education



The State Department of Health and Public Health – Seattle & King County on Friday released a [new report](#) by the [Institute for Disease Modeling \(IDM\)](#) that measures the tradeoffs between minimizing COVID-19 related health risks and maximizing

educational benefits for students when Washington's K-12 schools resume instruction. While the educational benefits of in-person learning are well established, the report shows there are still significant risks associated with returning to in-person instruction.

Reopening schools in a community where there is a high incidence of COVID-19 and with few public health countermeasures likely would mean classrooms where more than 17% of students and more than 24% of teachers are infectious, the study found.

At the same time, risks could be substantially reduced if school districts required mask-wearing, social distancing, frequent hand washing, the segmentation of students into smaller cohorts and the implementation of rigorous daily symptomatic screening supported by testing, isolation and contact tracing. But even with those strong countermeasures in place, up to 4.1% percent of students and 5.5% of teachers could still be infected between September 1 and December 1 if community incidence is high (110 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population).

"What we have found is that there is no 'zero-risk' scenario for resuming in-person instruction in Washington state schools," said Jamie Cohen, a co-author of the IDM report. "But our analysis shows that there are pathways to resuming limited and carefully monitored in-person instruction for younger students. This can happen only if everyone works together to minimize disease transmission in their local communities."

For more information, see the [report](#) and [full press release](#).

Nearly all schools in Snohomish County have announced plans for distance learning options in the fall.

OSPI provides detailed guidance for supporting special education students this fall

The state Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has prepared a new publication with resources, guidance, best practices, and unique considerations for supporting students living with disabilities during the 2020–21 school year.

Find the publication [here](#).

OSPI PROVIDES DETAILED GUIDANCE FOR SUPPORTING SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS THIS FALL

OSPI has prepared a new publication with resources, guidance, best practices, and unique considerations for supporting students living with disabilities during the 2020-21 school year.



Reopening Washington Schools 2020: Special Education Guidance

Available Now!



MONROE APPROVES \$50,000 IN COMMUNITY RELIEF GRANTS TO LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

The city of Monroe has approved \$50,000 in CARES Community Relief Grant awards for 9 Monroe nonprofit agencies. The City is preparing for a potential second round.

Monroe approves \$50,000 in community relief grants to local service providers



The city of Monroe has approved \$50,000 in CARES Community Relief Grant awards, and is prepared for a potential second round.

The first round of approved grants went to [9 Monroe nonprofit agencies](#). The awards range from \$2,000 to \$8,000 and were approved by the City Council at its August 11 regular meeting.

The council also authorized a second round of the Community Relief Grant, totaling up \$50,000, if an appropriate funding source becomes available. Details on a second round will be announced if opened.

More details on the Monroe Community Relief Grant can be found at: <https://www.monroewa.gov/956/Community-Relief-Grant>.

CARES is the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act](#). It is providing more than \$2 trillion in economic assistance across the U.S.

SULTAN WORKING TO GET PPE TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

The City of Sultan is now taking applications from Sultan businesses for a second round of grants to provide PPE as part of the City's COVID-19 response.

Sultan working to get PPE to local businesses

The City of Sultan is now [taking applications](#) from Sultan businesses for a second round of grants to provide personal protective equipment as part of the community's COVID-19 response. All businesses licensed within Sultan city limits are eligible to receive packs of masks, gloves, cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer. Businesses who received PPE packs during the first round are eligible to receive additional supplies during the second round. Apply [here](#).



INSURANCE COMMISSIONER EXTENDS PANDEMIC ORDER THROUGH SEPT. 15

Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler again extended his emergency order, directing all state-regulated health insurers to continue to cover telehealth and all medically necessary diagnostic testing for flu, COVID-19, and other viral respiratory illnesses. Details and links at right.

Insurance commissioner extends pandemic order through Sept. 15



Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler extended his [emergency order](#) again, directing all state-regulated health insurers to make additional coverage changes to aid consumers during the coronavirus pandemic. His order is in effect until Sept. 15 and requires health insurers to:

- Continue coverage for providing telehealth via methods including telephone and video chat tools such as Facetime, Facebook Messenger video chat, Google Hangout video, Skype and Go-to-Meeting.
- Cover all medically necessary diagnostic testing for flu and certain other viral respiratory illnesses billed during a provider visit for COVID-19 with no copay, coinsurance or deductible.
- Treat drive-up testing sites for COVID-19 as provider visit with no copay, coinsurance or deductible.

See the [full press release](#) for more information.

IRS TAKES NEW STEPS TO ENSURE PEOPLE WITH CHILDREN RECEIVE \$500 ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS

The IRS announced it will reopen the registration period for federal

IRS takes new steps to ensure people with children receive \$500 Economic Impact Payments



The Internal Revenue Service continues to look for ways to help people who were unable to provide their information in time to receive Economic Impact Payments for their children.

As part of that effort, the Internal Revenue Service announced today it will reopen the registration period for federal beneficiaries who didn't receive \$500 per child payments earlier this year.

beneficiaries who didn't receive the \$500 Economic Impact Payments for each child.

The IRS urges certain federal benefit recipients to use the [IRS.gov Non-File tool](#) starting Aug. 15 through Sept. 30 to enter information on their qualifying children to receive the supplemental \$500 payments.

Those eligible to provide this information include people with qualifying children who receive Social Security retirement, survivor or disability benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Railroad Retirement benefits and Veterans Affairs Compensation and Pension (C&P) benefits and did not file a tax return in 2018 or 2019.

The IRS anticipates the catch-up payments, equal to \$500 per eligible child, will be issued by mid-October.

For more information see the [full press release](#).

DOH: New report highlights COVID-19 cases are plateauing

DOH: NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS COVID-19 CASES ARE PLATEAUIING

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) released the latest statewide situation report, which reflects the flattening of new case counts in most counties in western and eastern Washington. The reproductive number is hovering around one.

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) released the latest [statewide situation report](#), which reflects the flattening of new case counts in most counties in western and eastern Washington.

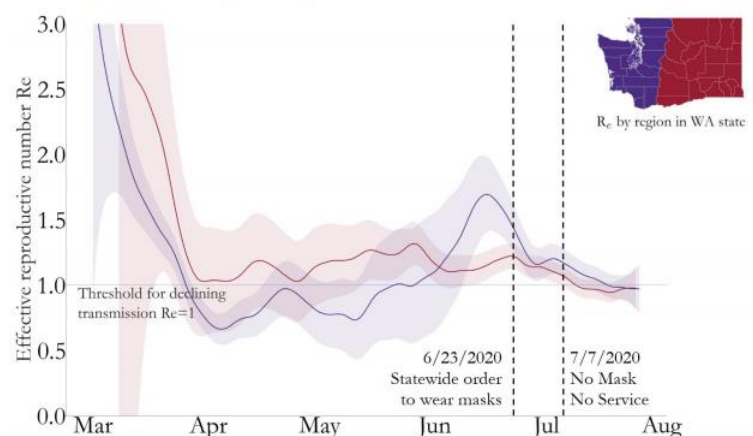
Report findings include:

- **The reproductive number is hovering around one.** The best estimate of the reproductive number (the estimated number of new people each COVID-19 patient will infect) in western WA was likely between 0.79 and 1.15 on July 26, with a best estimate of 0.97. In eastern WA, the best estimate on July 25 was likely between 0.82 and 1.13, with a best estimate of 0.98. The goal is a reproductive number well below one, which would mean the number of people getting COVID-19 is declining.
- **We're starting to see the impacts of people using face coverings across the state.** This report suggests that reductions in the reproductive number are attributable to statewide policy changes like the June 23 and July 7 mask mandates and pausing county movement with the Safe Start plan.
- **Case counts are plateauing or declining across age groups in King and Yakima counties.** Pierce County case counts may be starting to decline after alarmingly high growth in June and July. Spokane County cases started to decline in 0-39 year olds, but are on the rise again due to a sharp uptick in the 40-69 and 70+ age groups.

"While this is encouraging news and a sign of our collective efforts, we must not let our guard down," said Secretary of Health John Wiesman. "Plateauing is not enough to keep this pandemic under control; we must transition to a state of sustained decline in new cases. It remains critical that we continue to stay home when possible, keep interactions with others brief and wear face coverings."

DOH partners with the Institute for Disease Modeling, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, University of Washington and the Microsoft AI for Health program to develop this weekly report. More COVID-19 data can be found on the [DOH website](#) and in the state's [risk assessment dashboard](#).

We estimate that the effective reproductive numbers in eastern and western Washington are hovering around one.* In both regions, transmission has slowed relative to mid-June levels, with timing consistent with state-wide masking mandates, and limits on gathering sizes.



CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE CASES OF COVID-19 IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Data on case counts are available on the Snohomish Health District [website](#) and the Washington State Department of Health [dashboard](#).

ESSENTIAL LINKS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

- [Snohomish Health District](#)
- [Snohomish County](#)
- [Snohomish County COVID- 19 Response & Community Resource Hub](#)
- [Washington State](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- Snohomish County COVID-19 Phone Line: **425-388-3944**
- Línea telefónica COVID-19 del condado de Snohomish: **425-388-7120**
- Washington State COVID-19 Hotline: Call **1-800-525-0127** or text **211-211** for help.

Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of August 14, 2020)

Case Count	Last Updated: 1:49 p.m.
Confirmed	5,738 (up 50 cases from 8/13)
Probable	723 (no increase from 8/13)
Deaths	199

Jurisdiction	Last Updated: 1:49 p.m.
Arlington	276 (199 recovered)
Bothell*	472 (351 recovered)
Brier	30 (26 recovered)
Darrington	7 (<5 recovered)
Edmonds	534 (423 recovered)
Everett	1,878 (1,408 recovered)
Gold Bar	12 (7 recovered)
Granite Falls	45 (36 recovered)
Index	0
Lake Stevens	296 (225 recovered)
Lynnwood	1,042 (814 recovered)
Marysville	554 (409 recovered)
Mill Creek	105 (75 recovered)
Monroe	234 (170 recovered)
Mountlake Terrace	186 (149 recovered)
Mukilteo	104 (84 recovered)
Snohomish	398 (281 recovered)
Stanwood	172 (140 recovered)
Sultan	29 (18 recovered)
Tulalip	47 (36 recovered)
Unknown/Other	<5 (<5 recovered)
Woodinville*	24 (21 recovered)
Woodway	13 (9 recovered)

Numbers less than 5 are suppressed to protect medical privacy. Unknown includes cases still under investigation. *Counts are for portions in Snohomish County only.